predicate

Contents

English

Alternative forms

- prædicate (*archaic*)

Etymology 1

From Middle French *predicat* (French *prédicat*), from post-classical Late Latin *praedicātum* ("thing said of a subject"), a noun use of the neuter past participle of *praedicō* ("I proclaim"), as Etymology 2, below.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈpɹɛdɪkət/

Noun

predicate (*plural* **predicates**)

1. (*grammar*) The part of the sentence (or clause) which states something about the subject or the object of the sentence.

   > In "The dog barked very loudly", the subject is "the dog" and the **predicate** is "barked very loudly".

   - **1988**, Andrew Radford, chapter 8, in *Transformational grammar: a first course*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, page 438:

     > In the light of this observation, consider Number Agreement in a sentence like:
     > (120)   *They* seem to me [$_S$ — to be *fools*/**٭**a fool*]
     > Here, the **Predicate** Nominal *fools* agrees with the italicised NP *they*, in spite of the fact that (as we argued earlier) the two are contained in different Clauses at S-structure. How can this be? Under the NP MOVEMENT analysis of *seem* structures, sentences like (120) pose no problem; if we suppose that *they* originates in the — position as the subordinate Clause Subject, then we can say that the **Predicate** Nominal agrees with the *underlying* Subject of its Clause. How does *they* get from its underlying position as subordinate Clause Subject to its superficial position as main Clause Subject? By NP MOVEMENT, of course!

   - **1988**, Andrew Radford, chapter 6, in *Transformational grammar: a first course*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, page 323:

     > Thus, in (121) (a) *persuade* is clearly a *three-place* **Predicate** — that is, a **Predicate** which takes three Arguments: the first of these Arguments is the Subject NP *John*, the second is the Primary Object NP *Mary*, and the third is the Secondary Object S-bar [*that she should resign*]. By contrast, *believe* in (121) (b) is clearly a *two-place* **Predicate** (i.e. a **Predicate** which has two Arguments): its first Argument is the Subject NP *John*, and its second Argument is the Object S-bar [*that Mary was innocent*].

2. (*logic*) A term of a statement, where the statement may be true or false depending on whether the thing referred to by the values of the statement's variables has the property signified by that (predicative) term.

   > A nullary **predicate** is a proposition.
   > A **predicate** is either valid, satisfiable, or unsatisfiable.

3. (*computing*) An operator or function that returns either true or false.

Translations

> **(grammar) part of sentence that states something about its subject**
>
> - Albanian: kallëzues (sq) *m*
> - Arabic: خَبَر *m* (ḵabar)
> - Armenian: ստորոգյալ (hy) (storogyal)
> - Azerbaijani: xəbər (az)
> - Belarusian: выка́знік *m* (vykáznik), прэдыка́т *m* (predykát)
>
> - Kazakh: баяндауыш (bayandawış)
> - Korean: 술어 (ko) (sureo)
> - Latin: praedicātum (la) *m*, attribūtum *n*
> - Latvian: izteicējs *m*
> - Lithuanian: tarinys *m*
> - Macedonian: при́рок *m* (prírok)

- Bulgarian: сказу́емо ^(bg) *n* (skazúemo)
- Buryat: хэлэгшэ (xelegše)
- Chinese:

    Mandarin: 謂語 ^(zh), 谓语 ^(zh) (wèiyǔ), 述語 ^(zh), 述语 ^(zh) (shùyǔ)

- Czech: přísudek ^(cs) *m*
- Danish: prædikat *n*
- Dutch: gezegde ^(nl) *n*, predicaat ^(nl) *n*
- Esperanto: predikato ^(eo)
- Estonian: öeldis ^(et)
- Finnish: predikaatti ^(fi); predikaattiosa
- French: prédicat ^(fr) *m*
- Georgian: შემასმენელი (šemasmeneli)
- German: Prädikat ^(de) *n*, Satzaussage ^(de) *f*
- Greek: κατηγόρημα ^(el) *n* (katigórima)
- Hebrew: נָשׂוּא ^(he) (nasu)
- Hungarian: állítmány ^(hu)
- Icelandic: umsögn *f*, umsagnarliður *m*
- Ido: predikato ^(io) *m*
- Interlingua: predicato
- Irish: faisnéis *f*
- Japanese: 述語 ^(ja) (じゅつご, jutsugo)
- Kalmyk: келгч (kelgç)
- Maori: paparangi
- Mongolian: өгүүлэхүүн ^(mn) (ögüülehüün)
- Persian: مسند ^(fa) (masnad), گزاره ^(fa) (gozâre)
- Polish: orzeczenie ^(pl) *n*
- Portuguese: predicado ^(pt) *m*
- Romanian: predicat ^(ro) *n*
- Russian: сказу́емое ^(ru) *n* (skazújemoje), предика́т ^(ru) *m* (predikát)
- Serbo-Croatian:

    Cyrillic: предѝка̄т *m*, прѝрок *m*
    Roman: predìkāt ^(sh) *m*, prírok ^(sh) *m*

- Slovak: prísudok *m*
- Slovene: povedek ^(sl) *m*
- Southern Altai: айдылаачы (aydïlaačï)
- Spanish: predicado ^(es) *m*
- Swedish: predikat ^(sv) *n*
- Tagalog: panaguri ^(tl)
- Tajik: мустанад ^(tg) (mustanad)
- Turkish: yüklem ^(tr)
- Ukrainian: прису́док ^(uk) *m* (prysúdok), предика́т ^(uk) *m* (predykát)
- Uzbek: kesim ^(uz)
- Vietnamese: thuộc từ, vị ngữ ^(vi)

(logic) a term of a statement, where the statement may be true or false

- Czech: predikát *m*
- Dutch: predicaat ^(nl) *n*
- Esperanto: predikato ^(eo)
- Finnish: predikaatti ^(fi)
- French: prédicat ^(fr) *m*
- German: Prädikat ^(de) *n*
- Greek: κατηγόρημα ^(el) *n* (katigórima)
- Hebrew: פרדיקט *m*, פדיקט *m* (predicat)
- Icelandic: umsagnarökfræði *f*
- Japanese: 述語 ^(ja) (じゅつご, jutsugo)
- Persian: محمول ^(fa) (mahmul)
- Polish: predykat ^(pl) *m*, funkcja zdaniowa *f*
- Portuguese: predicado ^(pt) *m*
- Romanian: predicat ^(ro) *n*
- Russian: предика́т ^(ru) *m* (predikát)
- Serbo-Croatian: predikat ^(sh) *m*
- Slovak: predikát *m*
- Spanish: predicado ^(es) *m*
- Swedish: ett predikat ^(sv)

(computing) an operator or function that returns either true or false

- Finnish: predikaattifunktio

Adjective

predicate (*comparative* **more predicate**, *superlative* **most predicate**)

1. (*grammar*) Of or related to the predicate of a sentence or clause.

2. Predicated, stated.
3. (*law*) Relating to or being any of a series of criminal acts upon which prosecution for racketeering may be predicated.

Translations

(grammar) of or related to the predicate of a sentence or clause
■ Hungarian: állítmányi
predicated, stated — *see* **predicated, stated**
(law) relating to or being any of a series of criminal acts upon which prosecution for racketeering may be predicated

Derived terms

- nominal predicative
- predicatable
- predicate calculus
- predicative adjective
- predicatively

Etymology 2

From Latin *praedicātus,* perfect passive participle of *praedicō* ("publish, declare, proclaim"), from *prae* + *dicō* ("proclaim, dedicate"), related to *dīcō* ("say, tell").

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈpɹɛdɪˌkeɪt/

Verb

predicate (*third-person singular simple present* **predicates**, *present participle* **predicating**, *simple past and past participle* **predicated**)

1. (*transitive*) To announce, assert, or proclaim publicly.

2. (*transitive*) To <u>assume</u> or <u>suppose</u>; to <u>infer</u>.

- **1859**, <u>Charles Dickens</u>, "The Wine-shop", in *A Tale of Two Cities*, book I (Recalled to Life), London: <u>Chapman and Hall</u>, […], ᴏᴄʟᴄ 906152507 (http://worldcat.org/oclc/906152507), <u>page 21 (https://books.google.com/books?id=4v1NAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA21)</u>:

  There was a character about Madame Defarge, from which one might have **predicated** that she did not often make mistakes against herself in any of the reckonings over which she presided.

- **1880–1881**, <u>Thomas Hardy</u>, chapter II, in *A Laodicean; or, The Castle of the De Stancys. A Story of To-day.* [...] *In Three Volumes*, volume II, London: <u>Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington</u>, […], published 1881, ᴏᴄʟᴄ 1080146765 (http://worldcat.org/oclc/1080146765), book the third (De Stancy), <u>page 59 (https://archive.org/details/laodiceanorcastl02har/page/59/mode/1up)</u>:

  Of anyone else it would have been said that she was finding the afternoon rather dreary in the vast halls not of her forefathers: but of Miss Power it was unsafe to **predicate** so surely.

3. (*transitive*, *originally US*) to <u>base</u> (on); to assert on the grounds of.

- **1978**, Michel Foucault, *The Will to Knowledge*, trans. Robert Hurley (Penguin 1998, page 81):

  The law is what constitutes both desire and the lack on which it is **predicated**.

4. (*transitive*, *grammar*) To <u>make</u> a <u>term</u> (or <u>expression</u>) the <u>predicate</u> of a <u>statement</u>.
5. (*transitive*, *logic*) To <u>assert</u> or <u>state</u> as an <u>attribute</u> or <u>quality</u> of something.

- **1911**, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, <u>Conceptualism</u>

  This quality becomes real as a mental concept when it is **predicated** of all the objects possessing it ("quod de pluribus natum est praedicari").

Translations

to announce or assert publicly	
■ Finnish: <u>ilmoittaa</u> (fi), <u>vakuuttaa</u> (fi)	■ Romanian: <u>(a) predica</u> (ro)
■ Portuguese: <u>pregar</u> (pt), <u>predicar</u> (pt)	■ Serbo-Croatian: <u>predicirati</u>, <u>obznaniti</u> (sh)

to suppose assume, infer	
■ Finnish: <u>olettaa</u> (fi)	■ Portuguese: <u>supor</u> (pt)

to base on, to assert on the grounds of	
■ Icelandic: <u>byggja á</u>, <u>grundvalla á</u>	■ Portuguese: <u>basear</u>-<u>se</u> <u>em</u>

to make a term (or expression) the predicate of a statement
■ Maori: <u>whakapaparangi</u>

(*logic*) to assert or state as an attribute or quality of something

▪ Finnish: väittää ^(fi)	▪ Portuguese: predicar ^(pt)

Further reading

- predicate (http://www.websters1913.com/words/Predicate) in *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, G. & C. Merriam, 1913.
- predicate (http://triggs.djvu.org/century-dictionary.com/nph-chw.php?query=predicate&type=dicts) in *The Century Dictionary*, The Century Co., New York, 1911
- predicate (http://www.onelook.com/?w=predicate&ls=a) at *OneLook Dictionary Search*

Anagrams

- 'preciated

Ido

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /prediˈt͡sate/

Verb

predicate

1. *adverbial present passive participle of* **predicar**

Italian

Verb

predicate

1. *second-person plural present indicative of* **predicare**
2. *second-person plural imperative of* **predicare**
3. *feminine plural past participle of* **predicare**

Anagrams

- decrepita, decrepità, deprecati